St. Margaret's Churchyard.—This quicksand waste, filled with frail mortality, is now certain to excite great observation: the noted painted window of the church and the abbey of St. Peter's will, beyond doubt, bring thousands of strangers to the spot, who will marvel at the careless keeping of the last home of our foregones: they will, perhaps, imagine some misunderstanding exists between the churches as to whose duty it is to keep it in order. A few cart-loads of loamy mould and a little labour to regulate the grave-stones and level the ground, would make it look Christian-like. But, save the mark, a select vestry and perpetual officers seem not to create a very clear atmosphere adjacent to their whereabouts:—flowers won't show, and even the grass don't grow.—No Idler in London.

Causes of Deafness.—At the annual meeting of the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear, Mr. Harvey, the surgeon, reported that during the last year 976 patients had been admitted. Of these 550 had been discharged cured; 166 had been relieved; and 260 were now in weekly attendance. These patients consisted of clerks, needlewomen, domestic servants, distressed foreigners, soldiers, sailors, and police. The principal causes of deafness were to be traced to the fact of living in confined and damp localities, to intemperance, want of cleanliness and out-door exercise, insufficient and adulterated food, wet feet and clothes, sleeping in damp rooms and unaired beds. As long as these causes of deafness were suffered to remain, the medical art was capable of little more than palliating evils which were inevitable.

Institution of Mechanical Engineers.—A general meeting of this institution was held at Birmingham, on Wednesday in last week, Mr. J. E. M'Connell in the chair, when it was announced that a letter had been received from Mr. Peter Hollins, sculptor, in which he presented to the institution a cast from a bust of the late Mr. Telford, the engineer. Papers were then read,—by Mr. Barrans, of London, on an improved axle-box for railway carriages; by Mr. B. Gibbons, of Shutend, near Dudley, on the ventilation of mines; and by Mr. J. Beasley, of Smethwick, on a new machine for blooming iron. The chairman stated that the subscription for a testimonial to the memory of the late president, Mr. George Stephenson, was progressing favourably, and he trusted that the committee would shortly be enabled to decide upon the nature of that memorial.

Cockermouth Church.—In the account you gave last week of the meeting at Cockermouth, it appears as if I had mixed myself up in the very disgraceful scene which there took place. My plans had been selected at a previous meeting of the rate-payers, and I only attended this meeting, at the request of the committee, to give any further information asked for, when I purposely and carefully avoided all personal allusion whatever. In another place one of your correspondents evidently refers to me as the party who sent down "the five coloured plans, &c.," for the builders to tender from. I sent mounted tracings in outline, with the difference of materials only indicated by plain tints, in the usual manner: no coloured drawings were sent, but more than sufficient detail drawings to enable any efficient builder to take out his quantities from, and the result was the tenders were much more consistent than is usual. As the character of The Builder, and the position it takes, depend on the correctness and fairness of the information contained in its pages, I trust you will have the goodness to admit this letter in your next correspondence.—J. Clarke.

New Schools to New Parish of St. Mary's, Sowerby, near Halifax.—The opening of these schools took place on Easter Monday. The building stands in an elevated situation, midway between the new parsonage and St. Mary's Church. It measures 106 feet in length by 31 in width, and will accommodate 300 children. It is in one large room, with a wood partition in the centre 64 feet in height, to separate the sexes: the partition is removable. For ventilation, flues are built under the floor, with valvular grates attached to them. The windows are also provided with casements, and upon the roof are perforated ventilators. At the east end is a residence for the master. The building is in the perpendicular style of fifteenth century. The front is divided into three parts, having wings at each end, which terminate with high pitched gables, surmounted by moulded points. In each of the wings is a three-light mullioned window, with pointed head filled in with tracery, and in the gables are quatre foil lights of ogee form. In the centre of the front there is a porch with bold angular buttresses of two stages and moulded off-sets. This is terminated by a bell gable of great height, with foliated opening for the bell, and surmounted by a stone cover of suitable design. The roof is of high pitch, of open timber frame work, foliated. All the timbers of the roof and the other wood work are stained by Messrs. J. Wood and Son, of Leeds. In front is an extensive play-ground, enclosed by boundary wall and palisades. The building was designed by Messrs. Perkin and Backhouse, of Leeds, architects; and the contractors were Messrs. Riley, Fox, and Co.

Restoration of Queen Phillippa's Monument, Westminster Abbey.—Mr. Samual Cundy has made for the Great Exhibition a restoration of a portion of the monument of Phillippa of Hainault, queen of Edward III., in Westminster Abbey. It is executed in English alabaster under the direction of Mr. Scott, from the remains which have been found embedded in an adjoining tomb. The original splendid monument was executed in the year 1370, by one "Hawkin Leige, from France," at a cost of 133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, of that currency. The richness of the whole must have been very wonderful. The niches were occupied by thirty-two statuettes representing different branches of the family, and of which a nearly accurate list is preserved. The figures shown in the portion made by Mr. Cundy, (which represents the head of the altar tomb,) are those of Edward the Black Prince, Lewis Emperor of Germany, King Edward III., John King of France, and William Earl of Hainault. Besides the effigy of the Queen and the statuettes above named, there was a vast number of angels in the tabernacle work and elsewhere, so that the whole monument contained not less than eighty figures. The monument is now in a state of the most deplorable dilapidation, and one result of the present work will probably be to excite a feeling for its restoration. The statuettes and angels are executed by Mr. John Philip.

The "Art-Journal" Illustrated Catalogue of the Great Exhibition.—The first part of the "Art-Journal Catalogue" has been issued, separately paged, so as to be detached from the "Art-Journal," to be bound in a separate volume, together with an essay on "The Science of the Exhibition," by Mr. Robert Hunt. It forms a fourth or fifth portion of the whole, which, when completed, will contain engravings of about 2,000 of the articles contributed by the various nations of the world to the Great Exhibition, and certainly includes a larger amount of original matter and illustrations for 5*s.* than was ever before given. Without the security against loss supplied by the large circulation of the "Art-Journal," its production on such terms would have been impossible. The want of a scale lessens the value of the illustrations.

Good and Bad.—The following tenders for a house for Mr. Haddock, of Bolton (Mr. William Nicholson, architect), seem to me good instances of careful estimating:—

Holt	£500	0
Kershaw	499	0
Warburton	499	0
Shaw and Marsden	498	10

W. B.

Sir,—Oblige me by inserting these tenders for alterations at the "Penton Arms," New-road, Pentonville:— S.

Hodges	£479	10
Gadby	417	0
Ashby and Son	390	0
Smith	390	0
Shaw	384	0
Case	297	0

Somerset Archæological Society.—The fifth and last evening meeting of this Society for the season was held at the Museum, on Thursday in week before last. The Rev. F. B. Portman called attention to the illustrated volume of proceedings lately published by the Society, and now on sale. A paper was read by the Rev. R. Mate, on the Rise and Developement of Ecclesiastical Architecture. The Rev. F. Warre then concluded his series of lectures on Mediæval Costumes, by a paper on Ecclesiastical Vestments. Various objects of interest were exhibited.

The Flaxman Gallery in University College.—The Flaxman Hall, already mentioned by us, has been opened to the public. We intended giving a further description of it, and of the library which has been built under the direction of Professor Donaldson, but are forced by pressure to postpone the intention.

Pimlico Working Builders' Association.—This co-operative society had a festival meeting in the Lecture-hall, 15, Vauxhall-road, on 16th ult. to celebrate the completion of "the first house of a long line" to be erected in Tachbrook-street, where the office of the association also is. Amongst the promoters of such associations present were, Messrs. V. Neale, T. Hughes, J. Furnival, H. Ludlow, and Walsh, and Rev. J. Hansard. The meeting was numerously attended by the associates, their wives, and daughters. Appropriate sentiments were given. This association, we perceive, is now in regular business as an operative company, in all the various branches of the building trades.

The Fishmongers' Almshouses.—The new almshouses erected by the Fishmongers' Company, at Wandsworth, of which we have given a view, being finished, the almspeople have all been removed from the old building, opposite the Elephant and Castle, Newington, and are now in comfortable occupation of their new and wholesome dwellings. The old almshouses will be razed on Tuesday. It is said the parishes south of the Thames are about to unite to obtain the site for the erection of public baths and washouses.

Sir John Soane's Museum, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields.—We are glad to be able to state that, with a view to the accommodation of foreigners and persons from the provinces visiting London during the Industrial Exhibition, the trustees have resolved to keep this Museum open four days in the week during the months of May, June, July, August, and September; namely, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Foreigners will be admitted when the Museum is open, on producing a card to be issued at the several embassies.

Palatine Club Competition, Liverpool.—We are informed that the successful competitor is Mr. Parnell; and that the second and third designs selected are by Mr. Williams, and Mr. Arthur Holme.

Athens and Athenian Art.—Mr. C. Newton, of the British Museum, has been lecturing on this subject at the Liverpool Collegiate Institution. In treating of the Parthenon, he regarded it as one great poem with the glory of Pallas Athene and of Athens itself for its subject. By means of drawings, giving views of the sculptures as they still exist, and as they are supposed to have existed in their original state, the lecturer explained the various characters represented by the artist, and detailed the action of the piece, so far as it was capable of being made out.

TENDERS

Delivered a few days ago for the erection of a pair of Villas, at Duppa's Hill, Croydon, for Messrs Blake and Fuller. Mr. Moffat, architect. Quantities supplied.

Coleman	£2,000	0 0
Kirk	1,979	0 0
Hill	1,850	0 0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*Ignoramus.*"—A cylinder may be defined as "a solid whose base is a circle and whose curved surface is everywhere at equal distance from the axis:" the term "cylindrical globe" is a misnomer.

"*Geometry.*"—"I wish to know what method must be taken to find the radius that would cut a circle so that the two areas may be equal."—R. G.

"*Oak.*"—"Will you, or any of your correspondents, be kind enough to inform me, what will prevent oak mullions, or any other work left of its natural colour, splitting from exposure to the sun and wind."—J. M. H.

J. H." (inquire at No. 1, Greek-street, Soho); "W.

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